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2019

Region 5**Hot Topics****Viant, an EtO Commercial Sterilization Facility in Grand Rapids, Mich., Announced That It Will Close Sterilization Operations Later This Year**

Key message: Viant is among the EtO sources identified as creating potential health risks in EPA's 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment. Viant's decision, together with the Sterigenics' seal order, is raising concerns among medical/hospital suppliers regarding shortages of medical devices.

After a monitoring campaign In November, Michigan DEQ issued a violation notice to the facility for violating state rules to prevent air emissions that endanger human health. Michigan DEQ will conduct additional monitoring later this month and held a public meeting on this issue on March 6 in Grand Rapids. Viant said that sterilization services make up a very small part of its overall business model and operations. It employs approximately 450 people in Grand Rapids and 12 are assigned to the sterilization facility.

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~~2019~~**Region 7****Hot Topics****Congressional Visits in regard to Ethylene Oxide**

Key Message: On February 28, Mark Smith and Angela Brees met with local district staff for Congressman Jason Smith and Senators Blunt and Hawley in regard to National Air Toxic Assessment (NATA) for two facilities in Missouri. The most recent NATA shows that several areas in the midwest and other parts of the country could have elevated cancer risks from long-term exposure to the chemical ethylene oxide. EPA Region 7 is working with Missouri to refine our understanding of ethylene oxide emissions from R7 facilities, explore opportunities to reduce risk exposure, and engage local leaders and communities.

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Upcoming Events

On March 12 and 13, Regional Administrator Jim Gulliford will make Congressional visits in Washington DC to discuss Ethylene Oxide.

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